

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment & Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson:

We are writing to urge the Appropriations Committee to provide \$154.3 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) in fiscal year (FY) 2013, as the President requested.

As you know, NEH is the primary source of federal support for humanities research and related activities in the U.S. The Endowment provides competitive grant funding for research and scholarship in history, literature, foreign languages, and other fields that provide individuals with critical ethical, cultural, and historical perspective. All sectors of our country's education enterprise – research universities, small private institutions, state colleges, and community colleges – use NEH's competitive grants to conserve and nurture America's heritage and educate the next generation of Americans. Additionally, NEH funding allocated through state humanities councils strengthens the cultural infrastructure of local communities in every state and territory across the nation.

When we think of national security, the global economy, and other perennial and pressing concerns, the word "humanities" does not typically come to mind. But it *should*. Investment in the humanities advances vital U.S. interests by fostering a globally competitive workforce, strengthening civic engagement, preserving our cultural heritage, and protecting our national security. As our world becomes more interconnected, building a solid foundation in the humanities becomes even more vital to U.S. interests – that's why virtually all of our CIA analysts, State Department officials and diplomats at embassies across the globe are graduates of the humanities.

NEH has been an outstanding steward of the relatively small amount of federal support it receives annually. Between 1965 and 2009, NEH successfully leveraged more than \$2 billion in non-federal support, including private and institutional contributions. However, current demand for humanities project support far exceeds funding availability and non-federal support for the humanities has declined sharply due to the current economic downturn. Each year, as billions of dollars are rightfully invested in research and education in science and technology, the relative federal investment in the humanities falls further behind. The President's FY 2013 request therefore includes a 3.5 percent increase (\$5 million) to NEH's base budget, as well as a one-time appropriation of \$3 million to support the costs of relocating the NEH from its current

offices in the Old Post Office Pavilion (as mandated by the Old Post Office Building Redevelopment Act of 2008).

We are aware of the many difficult choices your Subcommittee faces in crafting its FY 2013 bill, but we believe that strong federal support for the humanities is needed now more than ever to preserve America's place as a world leader in education and innovation for all fields of learning and help provide our nation's citizenry and workforce with the foundation necessary to tackle the challenges of today's globalized world. We appreciate your past support of NEH and strongly urge your support for this FY 2013 request.

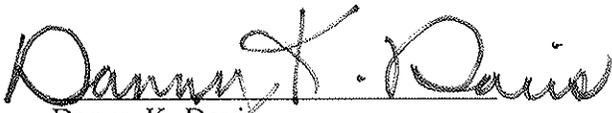
Sincerely,



David Price
Member of Congress



James P. Moran
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress



Dale Kildee
Member of Congress



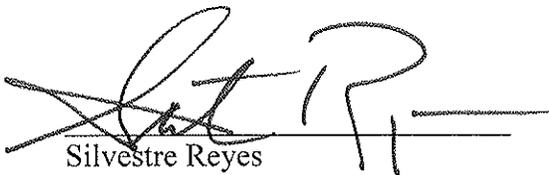
Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress



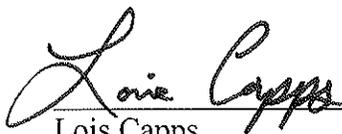
Henry A. Waxman
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



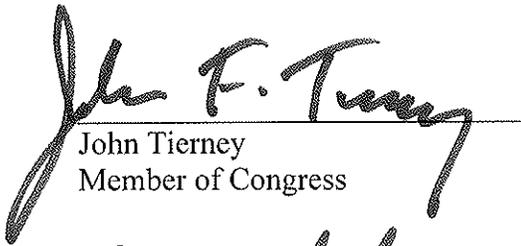
Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



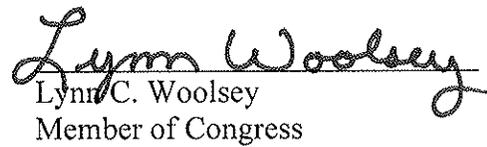
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress



John Tierney
Member of Congress



Lynn C. Woolsey
Member of Congress



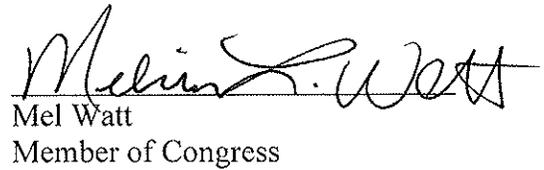
Robert E. Andrews
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



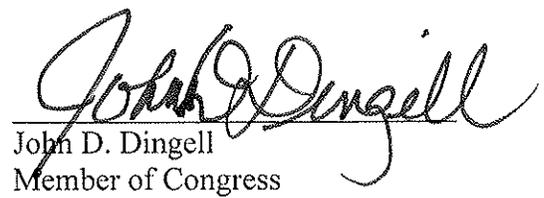
Steve Rothman
Member of Congress



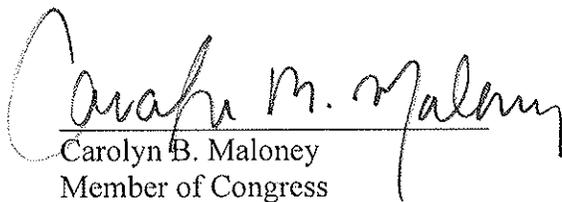
Mel Watt
Member of Congress



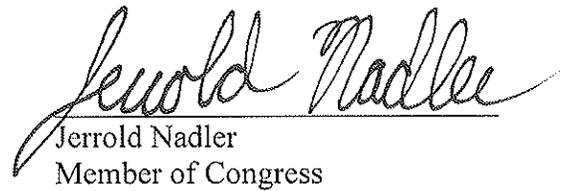
Nick J. Rahall, II
Member of Congress



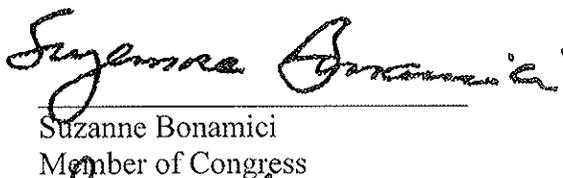
John D. Dingell
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Carolyn B. Maloney
Member of Congress



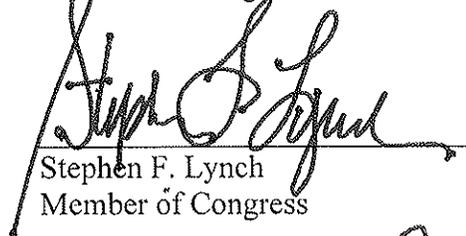
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



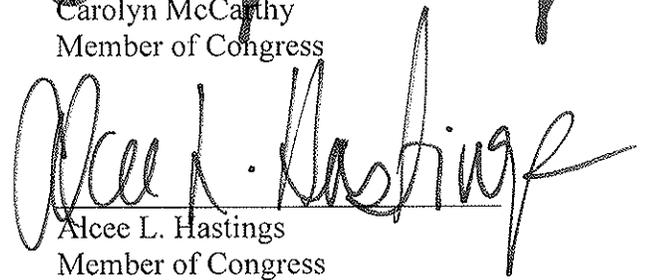
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



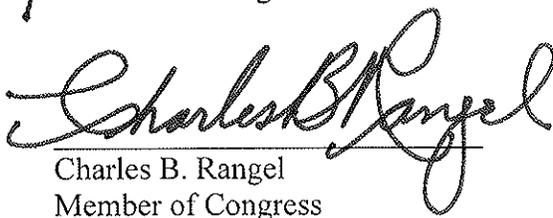
Carolyn McCarthy
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



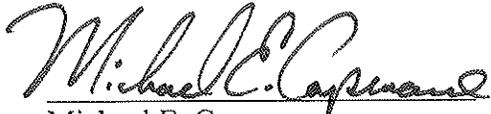
Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



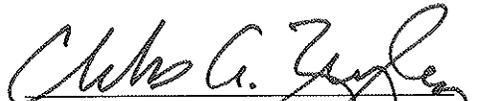
Charles B. Rangel
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Bill Owens
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Michael E. Capuano
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Leonard Boswell
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Charles A. Gonzalez
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Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

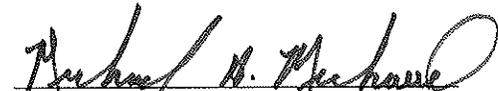

Ben Chandler
Member of Congress


Raul M. Grijalva
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Dave Loebsack
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Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress


Russ Carnahan
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Mike Michaud
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Robert A. Brady
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Rick Larsen
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James R. Langevin
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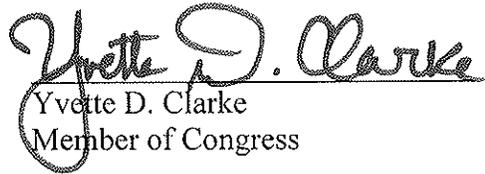

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress


Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress


Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Theodore E. Deutch
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Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



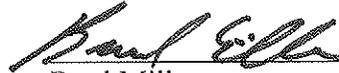
Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



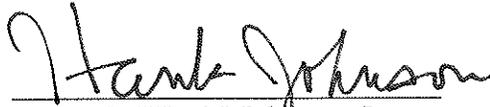
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Sam Farr
Member of Congress



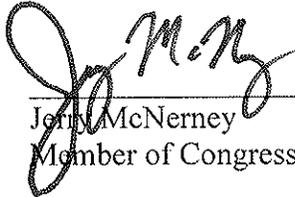
Brad Miller
Member of Congress



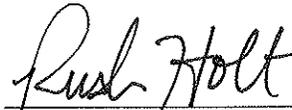
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Rush Holt
Member of Congress



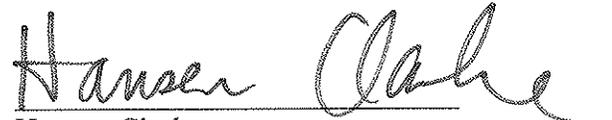
Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



Sander Levin
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Hansen Clarke
Member of Congress



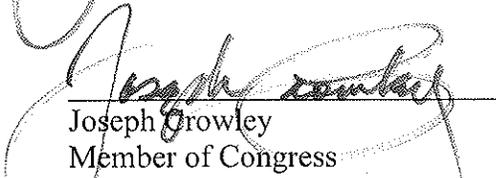
Peter Welch
Member of Congress



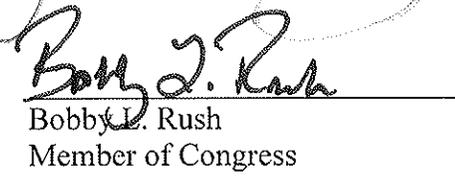
Mazie K. Hirono
Member of Congress

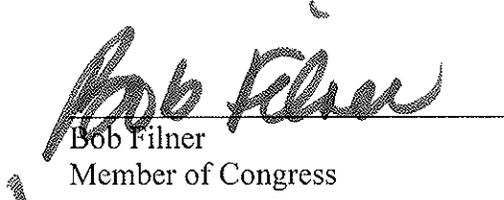

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

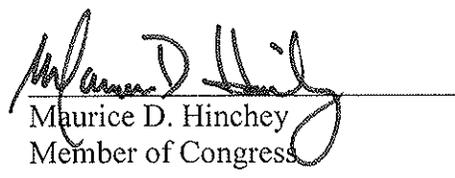

Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress

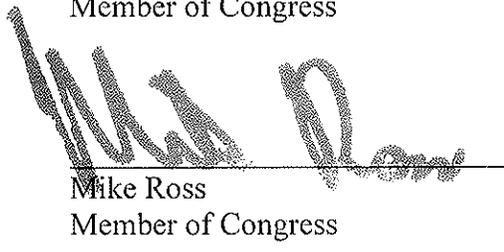

Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress

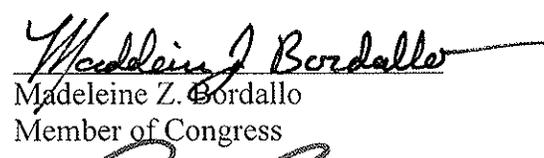

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

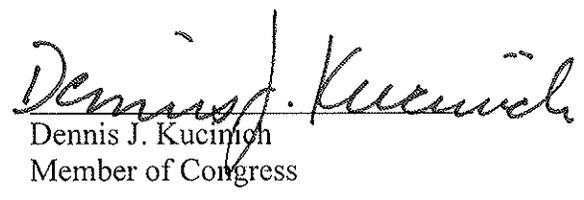

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

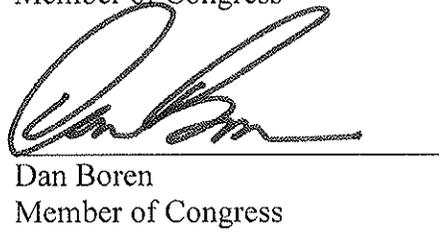

Bob Filner
Member of Congress

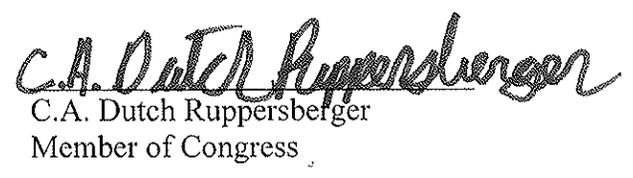

Maurice D. Hinchey
Member of Congress


Mike Ross
Member of Congress

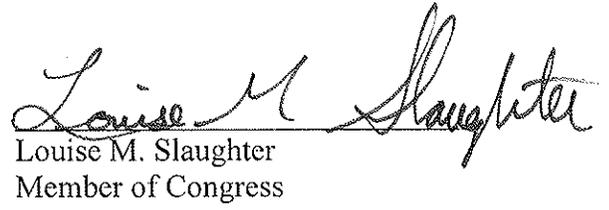

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
Member of Congress

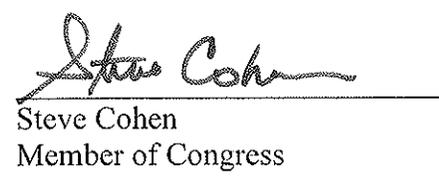

Dennis J. Kucinich
Member of Congress


Dan Boren
Member of Congress


C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress


Steve Israel
Member of Congress


Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress


Steve Cohen
Member of Congress


Mark Critz
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Pete Stark

Fortney "Pete" Stark
Member of Congress

Shelley Berkley

Shelley Berkley
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Jared Polis

Jared Polis
Member of Congress

David Scott

David Scott
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa

Colleen Hanabusa
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Member of Congress

André Carson

André Carson
Member of Congress

James McGovern

James McGovern
Member of Congress

Cc: House Appropriations Committee Chairman Harold Rogers
House Appropriations Committee Ranking Member Norm Dicks